witzer; Commode, Mrs. Webb; Nancy, Miſs Harper. Workmen, ſoldiers, ſailors, &c.

The fable of the piece is briefly this: Launch, maſter of Portſmouth dock-yard, elevated with the dignity of his ſtation, is determined to marry his daughter to none but a perſon of diſtinction. Ambuſcade, a French fencing-maſter, is the perſon he fixes on; but, Nancy's heart being engaged to Frederick, a midſhipman on board the grand fleet, ſhe rejects his addreſſes. Launch uſes his authority to force his daughter's inclination, but in vain. In the mean time Frederick arrives with the intelligence that the French fleet is in the channel, which greatly terrifies Tremor, who is Mayor of Portſmouth. After this, is introduced a conſpiracy between Sulphur, San Benito, and Ambuſcade, to ſet the dock on fire; but, being diſcovered, their plot is timely prevented, and the conſpirators are taken into cuſtody, along with Fripon and Commode, who were introduced by Ambuſcade as French Nobleſſe, the better to impoſe on Launch in his views on his daughter. The piece after this concludes with Frederick receiving Nancy's hand, and a hearty execration on all our invidious foes.

The above piece, though evidently a haſty production, has conſiderable merit; it is principally founded on the general conſternation which the appearance of the combined fleets occaſioned laſt ſummer. The character of Sulphur is meant to repreſent Dr. F—n. The plot is ſimple, and rather unconnected. In the firſt act there are many humourous ſtrokes and ſituations; but the laſt act falls off in point of merit. Upon the whole, it was very favourably received by the audience. The performers in general acquitted themſelves very ably, particularly Meſſ. Wilſon, Edwin, and Wewitzer. Miſs Harper ſung with her uſual taſte.

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PREFACE.

THE commencement of a new volume with a new year, calls upon the thankful Editors of the UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE to ſtep forward in a cuſtomary annual addreſs to their numerous Readers.

Conſiſtent with the obligations they are under in momentous times of enlarging in the number and extent of hoſtile narrations, and diſcuſſions of political ſubjects, particularly when points of national importance are agitated in Parliament, and draw the attention of the public; they, nevertheleſs, flatter themſelves, that the volumes for the preceding year, have rather exceeded, than fallen ſhort of, any before them, in the ſelection and miſcellaneous variety of inſtructive and amuſing articles. Endeavours ſhall not be wanting to go on in a progreſſive train of improvement in *Knowledge* and *Pleaſure*, that a welcome reception in all places may, in this ſenſe, juſtify the title of the UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE.

As the American continent, in the preſent unhappy war, is become the moſt intereſting ſcene of action; it has been their ſtudy, though attended with conſiderable expence, not merely to refer their Readers to general maps in former volumes, but to procure large and correct maps of the reſpective Provinces: the courſe of

theſe is already begun, illuſtrated with hiſtorical and deſcriptive accounts of each; and it is by ſuch inſtances of ſeaſonable attention, they hope to manifeſt an earneſt deſire to merit a continuance of that approbation the UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE has been favoured with through ſixty-five volumes!

They cannot conclude, without returning hearty and ſincere acknowledgements to all their friendly and generous contributors; by no means overlooking that ingenious unknown correſpondent, who kindly favoured them with the very timely and expreſſive deſign, executed as a Frontiſpiece to this new volume. In this, the figurative repreſentation of *Britannia*, is advancing from the Temple of Concord, over the emblems of war, French connexions, and Popery; followed by *Peace* and *Plenty*, with the offer of the Cap of Liberty to the diſtreſſed Americans. While theſe infatuated ſubjects to a new Congreſs in alliance with their old hereditary enemies, elevating their ſtriped enſign, oppoſe the paſſage of their benefactors, by preſenting their arms againſt them; though theſe arms are held by hands with manacles on them.

THE